

**FINAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE HOUSE MUSEUM COMMITTEE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

November 2005

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Irma Reinumagi, Attorney**

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A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation (SEA 64-2005, Section 3) which charged the Committee to "evaluate the creation of a State House museum, visitor's center, and gift shop within the State House."

SEA 64-2005 directed the Committee to do the following:

- (1) Recommend which state agency or agencies should be responsible for the museum, the visitor's center, and the gift shop.
- (2) Evaluate the amount of space needed for the State House museum, visitor's center, and gift shop.
- (3) Evaluate and recommend the types of memorabilia and displays to be included as part of the collection of the State House museum.
- (4) Evaluate and recommend the amenities and services of the visitor's center.
- (5) Recommend legislation, if necessary, to implement the creation of the museum, visitor's center, and gift shop.
- (6) Consider and make recommendations concerning any other issues determined by the Committee that are relevant to the creation of a state museum, visitor's center, and gift shop.

II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY

The Committee met during the 2005 legislative interim to fulfill its statutory responsibility to study issues relating to the establishment of a State House museum, welcome center, and gift shop.

III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met on August 30, September 27, October 21, and November 21, 2005.

During the August 30 meeting, the Committee toured the first floor of the State House, and the Committee discussed and commented on the areas they had seen with regard to the museum. The Chairman discussed reasons for the study. The Committee received information from the Department of Administration, Department of Natural Resources, and the Hoosier State Press Association. Ball State University's architecture faculty discussed providing a team of architecture students to devise plans for the museum.

At the September 27 meeting, the Committee toured the upper three floors of the State House. The Chairman emphasized that the purpose of the Committee was not to vacate the media from the State House, but to find a way to provide all interested visitors with an easily accessible and centralized location to learn about the history of the State House. State agencies, including the Supreme Court and the Office of Technology, provided information on the use of their storage facilities on the first floor of the State House.

The October 21 meeting included discussion on the Department of Administration museum feasibility report. (The report was required by the Committee's enabling legislation.) Additional testimony was taken on first-floor storage facilities. Ball State students and faculty updated the Committee on the progress of the student study.

At the November 21 meeting, Ball State faculty and students made a final presentation of their study to the Committee. The Committee stated their findings and recommendations and also adopted the final report by a vote of six ayes and zero nays.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee heard testimony from the faculty and students from Ball State University, several state agencies, the press, and the State Museum.

-The Ball State testimony encompassed the development of a plan for students to design possibilities for the placement of a museum in the State House. Dr. Sonne Palmer described what the students would do and discussed several points about the design of the State House. He raised an issue with the building's inner mechanics, particularly the first floor. He said that the design of the museum would have to account for piping, bearing walls, and columns. He said that the original drawings of the building were close but not entirely comparable to the building as built. He offered the opportunity for the Committee to have ten Ball State architecture students make visual inspection of the building and begin sketches of possible museum solutions.

At subsequent hearings, Dr. Palmer provided updates on the progress of the students. At the October 21 meeting, several of the students testified about their ideas for solutions. At the November 21 meeting, the students gave a presentation on their findings.

- Several state agencies that maintain a storage facility or workspace on the first floor offered testimony on what the space was used for and how important the space was to the agency.

David Remondini of the Supreme Court testified that an inventory was being conducted on items, particularly books, that could be archived or recycled.

Philip Sachtleben of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) testified on the use of the LSA's first-floor storage area and the importance it held to the LSA's printing efforts. Mr. Sachtleben also mentioned, as an option, use of existing LSA staff to handle sale of small memorabilia items such as pencils.

State Auditor Connie Nass testified on the importance of maintaining a smooth operation between payroll, filing, and programming departments, much of which is housed on the first floor. However, she stated that much of the Auditor Office's space is not under the rotunda of the State House, but in the southwest corner of the first floor.

Corwin Foote with the Office of Technology described the phone and computer equipment placed in Room 137 on the first floor of the State House. He said that to move the equipment, which provides the State House, the ISTA building, and One North Capital building with telephone and internet service, would be very costly.

-Burgess Brown with the Department of Natural Resources testified on the availability for the State Museum Inc. to provide staff for a gift shop in the State House.

-Tracy Jones and Jennifer Hodge with the Department of Administration testified on some of the administration issues with the establishment of a museum. Ms. Hodge conducted both tours of the State House for the Committee and also provided some information on other states' museums.

-Bonnie Coghlin with the Department of Administration testified on requirements that would need to be met for a first-floor museum. She also said that access areas, such as stairwells, additional restrooms, and better air circulation would be required to safely accommodate the museum visitors.

-Stephen Key with the Hoosier State Press Association discussed current press facilities on the first floor of the State House, and he stated the importance of their close proximity to House, Senate, and other state agencies. He stressed that if the press facilities were moved, that even a few minutes saved from driving or walking could make the difference in a story deadline. He also said, if moved, he hoped that other facilities, perhaps of better quality, would be made available to the press within the State House.

V. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee supports the idea of establishment of a State House museum within the State House.

- The Committee finds that there is merit in the establishment of a retail shop for the sale of State House museum memorabilia.

- The Committee recommends that the museum site should present the rich history of the State House in an efficient and centralized location in the State House that is easily accessible to visitors of downtown Indianapolis.
- The Committee recommends that the establishment of a museum not impede the security of the State House nor reduce the ability of agencies within the State House to conduct business.
- The Committee finds that further research is needed on the ramifications of possible interference with the building's mechanics so that the establishment of a museum does not interfere with the building's mechanics.
- The Committee finds that further study is needed to determine what entity (State Museum satellite staff or tourism group staff) is appropriate to handle the proceeds from State House memorabilia sales.
- The Committee finds that the Ball State student study presents a vista of unlimited possibilities to the Legislative Council for the establishment of the museum.
- The Committee finds that the State House is inadequate to meet the housing needs of both the Judiciary and other State House tenants.
- The Committee recommends that the Legislative Council further review an alternative housing solution for the Judiciary, including the construction of a separate Judicial facility.
- The Committee recommends that the types of items to be sold in a museum gift shop, such as collectibles, memorabilia, or souvenirs, be subject to the space available and imagination of the persons that manage the gift shop.
- The Committee recommends that legislation be prepared that designates the Legislative Services Agency to sell memorabilia in the interim before a visitor's center is built, with the money generated by the sales going into a designated account within the state General Fund for State House maintenance and preservation.

WITNESS LIST

Burgess Brown, Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Sonne Palmer, Ball State University

Jeff Linder, Ball State University

Jennifer Hodge, Department of Administration

Tracy Jones, Department of Administration

Stephen Key, Hoosier State Press Association

Bonnie Coghlin, Department of Administration

Corwin Foote, Department of Technology

David Remondini, Supreme Court

Connie Nass, Auditor of State

Philip Sachtleben, Legislative Services Agency

Ball State University Architecture Students:

Nicholas Martz

Shannon Staicer

Jevon Ritchey

Jason Brenneman

Jacob Lloyd

David Mallory